1418

HISTORY

OF

CARLISLE,

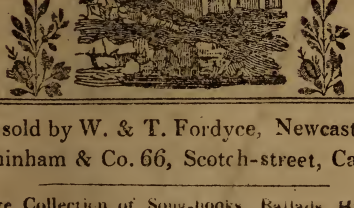
ANCIENT AND MODERN,

CONTAINING

An accurate Description of the City—an Account of its Public Buildings, Castle, and Churches—Municipal Government, Trade and Commerce—The Canal—the Railroad; with the most remarkable Occurrences that have taken place here from the earliest period. Also, CARLISLE YETTS, a Poem, allusive to the taking of the City by Prince Charles Stuart.

Gretna Green Excursions and Adventures,

THE BRIDGES, AND OTHER INFORMATION.



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☞ A large Collection of Song-books, Ballads, Histories, &c.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

History of Carlisle.

CHAPTER I.

THE name of CARLISLE, seems to be derived from *Luel*, a British chieftain, and probably its founder, and *Caer*, the Saxon name for city; whence *Caerluel*, or city of Luel, and by an easy corruption, Carlisle: although the Romans named it Lugavallium, or Lugoballum, from its situation on Severus' wall, and from the troops and people garrisoned there. It appears to have been a place of importance in their time, both from the frequent mention made of it by their writers, and from Roman remains discovered from time to time within its limits. It is natural to infer, that after their retreat it would frequently become a prey to the rapine of the northern nations, who, from this time until the coming of the Saxon allies, were continually making predatory and devastating irruptions throughout the whole northern counties of England.

Egfrid, king of Northumbria, in the beginning of the seventh century, having extended his conquests to the western ocean, and retained Cumberland as a

tributary province of his kingdom, granted Carlisle to St. Cuthbert as an appendage to his see at Lindisferne, who, it is said, founded a convent of monks, an abbey of nuns, and a school, and under whose protection the city appears to have risen rapidly into importance, until its wealth, about the beginning of the ninth century, attracting the ferocious cupidity of the Danes, it was once more entirely reduced to ashes, and the inhabitants, men, women, and children put to the sword; indeed, so complete was its destruction, that for two hundred years after it remained without an inhabitant, except a few Irish, who sheltered themselves among its ruins. During the reign of William the Conqueror, Walter, a Roman priest, partly rebuilt the city, and restored the ancient religious society, which, by a mandate of William, was placed under the jurisdiction of Durham.

King William Rufus, in returning from concluding a peace with the Scots, perceived the rebuilding progressing rapidly under the direction of Walter, made him governor, and ordered the city to be completely walled round and fortified. These walls enclosed a triangular space, and had three gates, known by the names of the English, Irish, and Scotch gates, accordingly as they led to the south, the west, or the north. From the style displayed in

the erection of these fortifications, it is thought a colony of Flemings, sent by William, superintended the buildings, and who afterwards were removed into North Wales and the Isle of Anglesea, and were succeded by a colony of husbandmen from South Britain, who have the credit of introducing agriculture and its attendant comforts into this part of the country, which at that time was covered with wood, and formed part of what was then known by the title of Inglewood Forest.

CHAPTER. II.

HENRY the First formed Carlisle into an episcopal see in 1132-3, appointed Athelwold his confessor first bishop, and completed the fortifications; but on his death, Stephen, usurping the English throne, granted the city and surrounding lands to David, king of Scotland, on condition of obtaining his assistance against Henry, the natural heir to the English crown. David created his son Henry first earl of Carlisle, who died here in 1553, after founding the abbey of Holm Cultram, Henry II. before Stephen's death, came to David at Carlisle, attended by the great barons of the west and received the honour of knighthood He took an oath at the time, that on acceding to the English throne, he

would confirm to David and his son their English possessions; but no sooner did he grasp the sceptre than he imperiously demanded the restitution of Cumberland. In 1158, the two monarchs had an interview in the city, which ended in Henry's taking possession.

In the year 1178, William the Lion, then king of Scotland, besieged the city with an army of 80,000 men, the garrison suffered much from the blockade, and the adjacent country from pillage; but William being made prisoner at Alnwick, again relieved the inhabitants from the brutalities of their barbarous invaders. In the reign of king John, Alexander, king of Scotland, besieged the city, and took all except the castle. The Scots in 1296 burnt the suburbs, laid waste the adjacent country, and attempted the city by storm; but the inhabitants made so gallant a defence, even the women mounting the walls, discharging stones, boiling water, and other missiles upon the heads of their assailants, that the Scots retreated after four days fighting. A few years afterwards, nearly half of the city, viz: 1300 houses, and the church containing the ancient records, were consumed by an accidental fire.

About the same time Edward the First summoned a great court to be holden in Carlisle, and all the great and powerful,

lay and ecclesiastical, barons and knights in the kingdom, assembled. Afterwards Edward resided here from January 30th until June 28th, whence he proceeded against the Scots; but taking ill while crossing Burgh Marsh, five miles from Carlisle, he there died in his camp. A monument has been since erected to his memory on the spot.

In the reign of Edward the Second, Robert Bruce, after coasting the country as far as Allendale and Coupland, attacked Carlisle, but after ten days' siege, he precipitately retreated before Andrew de Hercla, afterwards created second Earl of Carlisle.

From the year 1337 until 1380, the Scots made various unsuccessful attempts to take the city—and in the 28th of Henry the Eighth, during Aske's rebellion, it was besieged by an army of 8,000 men, under the command of Musgrave and Tilby, who were repulsed by the garrison, intercepted in their retreat by an army led by the Duke of Norfolk, who took all the leaders, except Musgrave, and hung them on the walls of the city

In the 40th and 41st of Elizabeth, this place was visited by a plague, which carried off 1,196 persons, who were computed to be one-third of the whole inhabitants. It was surrendered to the parliamentary

forces under Lesley in the 20th of Charles the First's reign, having sustained a siege and blockade from October to the June following, during which the distress of the garrison and inhabitants was so great, that the flesh of the horses, dogs, and rats were eaten—bread was totally exhausted, and hempseed substituted. Subscriptions were raised in the surrounding country, provisions bought, and thrown privily into the city, but all in vain. The besieged, however, obtained honourable terms for the garrison, and to the inhabitants were granted their lives and property. A coinage of silver pieces of three shillings value took place in the castle, during the siege, from the plate of the inhabitants sent in for that purpose, some of which may yet be seen in the cabinets of the curious. A brief abstract from the diary of Isaac Tullie, an inhabitant of Carlisle at the time, shews the dreadful privations which existed :—

"The besieging army consisted of about 4,000 horse and foot; the garrison, with the townsmen in arms, of about 700 The principal works round the town were General Lesley's, at Newtown—Lord Kirkcudbright's, at Stanwix—Colonel Lawson's, over the bridge to the north-east—and Colonel Cholmley's, at Harraby. Lesley's head-quarters were at Dalston-hall. About

the end of February they began to be on short allowance, half a hoop of corn being given to a head.—April 3, they had only thatch for the horses, all other provisions being exhausted.—May 10, a fat horse, taken from the enemy, sold for ten shillings a quarter.—May 23, provisions almost spent.—May 30 shews that the king was come to Westmorland, and the garrison that day ate three days' provisions, and repented with a cup of cold water for three days after.—June 5, Hemp-seed, dogs, and rats were eaten; the citizens so shrunk, that they could not choose but laugh one at another to see their clothes hang on them as upon men on gibbets, for one might put one's head and fists between the doublets and shirts of many of them.—June 17, some officers and soldiers came to the common bake-house, and took away all the horse-flesh from the poor people, who were as near starving as themselves.—June 22, the garrison had only half a pound of horse-flesh each for four days.—June 23, the townsmen petitioned Sir Thomas Glenham, that the horse-flesh might not be taken away, and said, they were not able to endure the famine any longer. Several women met at the cross, abusing Sir Henry Stradling, the governor, who threatened to fire on them: they begged it as a mercy, when he went away with tears in his eyes,

but said he could not mend their commons."

CHAPTER III.

THREE years afterwards, (in 1648) the city was taken by Philip Musgrave, a royalist, who delivered it up to the Duke of Hamilton. Cromwell shortly after compelled a surrender, and placed it under the command of Major-General Harrison. On the restoration of King Charles the Second, Sir Philip Musgrave was appointed governor. The last hostile acts of which Carlisle was the scene, were those in the Scotch rebellion of 1745. Charles Edward Stuart, commonly called the Young Pretender, in prosecuting his ill-advised enterprize into England, arrived at Carlisle on the 9th of November. His army attacked the city in three divisions—one under the command of the Duke of Perth, the generalissimo of the army, was stationed at Stanwix—the second, under the Marquis of Tullibardine, at Caldew-gate—the third, under the prince himself, at the English Gate. The city held out until November 15th, when, from a gazette account of the times, it appears the city was in a most defenceless state. The account runs as follows :—

" For seven days, neither the officers nor common men of the garrison got scarce an hour's rest, being perpetually in alarm, that many were so sick through great fatigue, that being out of all hopes of speedy relief, they absolutely refused to hold out any longer, and multitudes went off every hour over the walls, till the officers of several companies were at last left with three or four men, so that the mayor and corporation determined to hang out a white flag, though contrary to the opinion and protestation of Colonel Durand and made the best terms they could get for themselves, that the colonel was thereupon obliged to abandon the castle, not having above seventy invalids in his whole corps, and most of them unfit for service. The rebels threatening, in case of refusal, to sack and destroy the whole town with fire and sword."

The inhabitants raised two thousand pounds to save the houses from being plundered. Charles, about a month after, in retreating north before the English army, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, left a garrison of four hundred men in the castle, with a promise of speedy reinforcements. However, the duke arriving two days after, besieged the city, and compelled a capitulation within a few days. Nine of

the rebels, with the Rev. James Coppock, whom Charles had created Bishop of Carlisle, were executed in the city. The officers found in the garrison were sent to London, tried for high treason, found guilty, and executed with all the barbarity of the times.

CHAPTER IV.

About the beginning of the 18th century, the buildings of Carlisle were mostly of wood, clay, or laths; the gables fronted the streets, the door in the centre, and many of the houses had porches which projected two or three yards into the street.—The streets, though spacious, were paved with large stones, and the centre part, or causeway, rose to a considerable height. The fronts, from the houses, were paved in the same manner, between which and the causeway were deep trenches, over which stone bridges were placed in many parts, for the convenience of passing from one side of the street to the other. These trenches were the reservoirs of all kinds of filth, which, during a heavy rain, stopped the conduit of the bridges, inundated the streets, and rendered them impassable on foot.

Soon after the rebellion of 1745, a com-

pany of Hamburgh merchants fixed upon Carlisle as a suitable place for a woollen manufactory, which was carried on successfully for some years. About the year 1750, a manufactory of coarse linen cloths, called Osnaburghs, was established by Messrs. R. and W. Hodgson, aldermen of the city; likewise woollen manufactories, by Mr. J. Blamire, three brothers of the name of Mackrell, and one Thorpe, which never seemed to have done much business. In 1761, a company, under the firm of Scot, Lamb, and Co., from Newcastle, introduced calico printing, and afforded lucrative employment for men, women, and children, and thereby increased both the wealth and population of the city. At first cottons for the stamperies were brought from Lancashire, but cotton-looms were soon after introduced, followed by the machinery of Arkwright for carding and spinning the raw material—thus commenced what has hitherto been the staple manufacture of this city.

Among eleven or twelve cotton-mills in the town and immediate vicinity, those of the firm of P. Dixon and Sons rank pre-eminent. One lately erected by them in Shaddongate, 82 feet in height, 224 feet long, and 56 feet in breadth, lighted by 351 windows, and having an octagonal chimney 305 feet high, is a building of

singular beauty; besides, the factories of T. and J. Ferguson, in Ferguson's Lane, and at Cummersdale—Story and Co.'s in East Tower-street—Stoddart and Co.'s at Willow-holm—and Joseph Ferguson's, for umbrella cloths, are conducted with spirit and energy. The principal fabrics are ginghams and checks, for the West India market—and calicoes, carpets, table-cloths, &c. There are, moreover, three print-fields, several dye-houses, bleacheries, hat-manufactories, three iron-foundries, and four public breweries.

Carlisle, situated on the great western road leading from Lancashire into Scotland, about 302 miles N W. by N. from London, and 9 from the borders of Scotland, stands on a gentle eminence in the midst of a fertile plain, watered by the Eden, the Caldew, and the Peteril. These rivers, nearly surrounding the city, has procured it the appellation of "The City on the beautiful Waters." The Eden flows to the north of the city, passes near the castle-walls, and empties itself into the Solway Frith about six miles from Carlisle; the Caldew, to the north-west, joins the Eden a little below the castle; and the Peterel, to the south, joins it about a mile higher.

From no point of view is Carlisle seen to greater advantage than from the Newcastle road, a little to the east of Stanwix; here e eye takes, in at a glance, the spires of

Trinity and Christ-church. the tower of St. Cuthbert's, the Infirmary, the towers of the Court-houses, and the vast body of the Cathedral, surmounting the dark luxurient lime-trees adjoining it, the keep and massy walls of the castle, its buttresses and embrasured parapets, a foreground of surpassing loveliness, enhanced by the meanderings of the gently-flowing Eden, spanned by a noble bridge, and in the back ground, Skiddaw and his compeers raising their towering fronts far aloft, and seeming to look over a wide extent of country with frowning majesty.

The parts of the Cathedral now remaining, partly of Gothic, and partly of Saxon architecture, evince that the entire structure must have been a splendid edifice; what remains consists of the east limb of the cross aisle, or transept, with the tower; the west limb was principally pulled down during the civil wars in 1644, and the stones used for guard-houses and batteries. The interior is peculiarly grand; the choir a fine specimen of Gothic—its light and graceful columns---the stalls garnished with tabernacle-work---the masterly pointed carvings---the aisle ornamented with the legendary paintings of St. Anthony, St. Cuthbert, and St. Augustine---the east window with its elegant flowing tracery, and splendid delineation of scriptural incidents, all strangely interest the fancy,

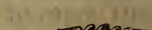
and carry it back to scenes and times far gone by

The Castle, a prominent object of history, from the warlike stand it has so often made against the Scots, is supposed to owe its origin to William Rufus, although it is highly probable that a castle stood on the same site in the time of Agricola. It underwent considerable repairs in the reign of Henry VIII., who is likewise said to have built the citadel over the English gate, which consisted of towers of great strength, with embrasured parapets and loop-holes, commanding every approach. The Castle stands on an eminence north-west of the city, in the form of an irregular triangle, and occupies about three acres of ground. It consists of an outer ward, an inner ward, and a keep, the two former divided by a strong rampart, the latter having its outer surface strengthened and relieved by shallow buttresses, carried nearly to the entire height of the tower. The entrance into the outer ward is from the south, through an embattled tower, or double gate-way, defended by gates of great strength, a port-cullis and machicolations. The outer ward is nearly square, the inner of a triangular form, and contained a tower, taken down in 1834–5, generally called Queen Mary's tower, from that unfortunate personage taking refuge here after the fatal battle of Langside. The

walls of the outer ward are nine feet thick, and eighteen in height, surmounted with battlements, and strengthened on the north side by immense buttresses of solid masonry; those of the inner ward twelve feet, protected on the north side by a rampart, twenty-seven feet thick, likewise strengthened by massive buttresses. The dongon, or keep, nearly square, constituted the principal defence and last resource of the garrison: it contains a well 78 feet in depth, which is supposed to be the work of the Romans, and consists of three stories, each sixteen feet in height, and the ground floor, in the latter, are the dungeons, entered by narrow doors, and in the north-west angle was a stair-case, communicating with each floor in the building, as well as with a subterranean passage which led to a half-moon battery in the inner ward. Within the thickness of the eastern wall are two cells, one of which is supposed to have been the prison of the Fergus Mc.Ivor of Sir Walter Scott, or Major Mc Donald. At a short distance from the castle, on the city-walls, is a ruined tower, called King Richard's, or the Tile Tower, which communicates with the donjon of the castle by a subterranean passage.

The following pathetic verses, alluding to the taking of the city by Prince Charles Stuart, and the melancholy catastrophe that followed, will not fail to interest the reader:—

CARLISLE YETTS.



White was the rose in his gay bonnet,
As he faulded me in his broached plaidie;
The hand whilk clasp'd the truth of love,
O it was aye in battle ready!

His lang, lang hair, in yellow hanks,
Wav'd o'er his cheeks sae sweet and ruddie,
But now they wave o'er Carlisle Yetts,
In dripping ringlets, clotting bloodie!

My father's blood's in that flower-tap,
My brother's in that harebell's blossom;
This white rose was steep'd in my love's blood,
And I'll aye wear it in my bosom.

When first I came by merry Carlisle,
Was ne'er a town sae sweetly seeming;
The white rose flaunted o'er the wall,
The thistled banners far were streaming:

When I came next by merry Carlisle,
O sad, sad seem'd the town and eerie!
The auld men they came out and wept——
"O maiden, come ye to seek your dearie!"

There's ae drap o' blood atween my breasts,
And twa in my links o' hair sae yellow,
The tane I'll ne'er wash, and the tither ne'er kame,
But I'll sit and pray beneath the willow.

Wae, wae upon that cruel heart,
Wae, wae upon that hand sae bloodie,
That feasts in our richest Scottish blood,
And makes sae monie a dolefu' widow!

CHAPTER V.

CARLISLE is, at the present day, remarkable for cleanliness; the streets are spacious, principally radiating from the Market-place, and are known by the names of English-street, Scotch-street, Castle-street, Fisher-street, with Lowther-street, Botcher-gate, Ricker-gate, &c. &c. A statement of the population, as taken at different periods, shews that the city is increasing steadily in importance. In 1780, there were 7,677---in 1801, 9,521---in 1811, 11,654---in 1821, 14,531---and in 1831, 19,069 inhabitants; and as it will eventually become a point of concentration for three or four railways, it must yet greatly increase in manufacturing and commercial prosperity. It returns two members to parliament.

The city is divided into five wards, viz:---St. Cuthbert's ward, St. Mary's ward, Botchergate ward, Caldew ward, and Rickergate ward, for the purposes of municipal election, and is governed by the "Council," consisting of a mayor, ten aldermen, and thirty councillors. The permanent annual income of the corporation is about £1,870, augmented by five or six hundred pounds arising from variable sources.

The market-days are on the Wednesday and Saturday of every week, first chartered

by Henry the First, and confirmed by subsequent monarchs, the former for vegetables, butter, eggs, &c, and the latter one of the most extensive in the north of England, for grain, cattle, &c. Several markets and fairs are held during the year for horses, cattle, sheep &c., besides hirings for servants.

Carlisle consists of two parishes, St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's: the parishioners of the former assemble for divine worship in a part of the Cathedral. St. Cuthbert's church, founded in honour of St Cuthbert of Duresm, stands near the Cathedral, and was rebuilt in 1778, and lately repaired, and has a chapel of ease, Christ-church, in Botchergate. St. Mary's has likewise a chapel of ease, Trinity church, in Caldew-gate The ecclesiastical establishment of the Cathedral consists of a bishop, dean, chancellor, and archdeacon—four prebendaries, eight minor canons, four lay clerks, six choristers, and six almoners. There are moreover, several dissenting places of religious worship, viz: the Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Secession chapel, Baptist chapel, and Friends' meeting-house in Fisher-street—the Independent chapel in Annetwell-street—the National Scotch church, Wesleyan Association, Tabernacle, and Catholic chapel in Lowther-street, and the Primitive Methodist chapel in Caldew-gate.

Carlisle possesses its literary and philoso-

phical Society: a handsome building is now erecting for containing their library, museum, &c., its mechanic institute, together with a large subscription library, news-rooms, &c. Its Grammar-school, Lancasterian-school, Central-school, and School of Industry, with several respectable private schools, afford abundant means for an excellent education. Two newspapers are published weekly, one advocating liberal measures, the other conservative, both conducted with singular ability, and extensively circulated.

A ship-canal, extending from Carlisle to the Solway Frith, commenced in 1819, and completed in 1823, at the cost of about £90,000, the property of about 365 shareholders, allows vessels of less than a hundred tons burden to come up to the town; those of a greater burden unload at Port Carlisle, situated at the terminus of the canal on the Solway Frith, and the goods brought up in large flat-bottomed boats, denominated lighters. The length of the canal is eleven and a half miles.

The public buildings deserving of particular mention are, the market-cross, erected in 1682, an elegant Ionic column, with a plain shaft and pedestal—the county gaol—and house of correction, occupying the site of the ancient monastery of Black Friars, near the English-gate, completed in 1827, at a cost of £42,535, consisting of a centre and two

wings, finished with an embattled parapet and relieved by a range of narrow gothic windows—the reading-rooms, situated at the angle of English and Devonshire-streets, exhibiting a beautiful example of the decorated gothic style—and the Infirmary, near the canal basin in Caldewgate, a fine specimen of classical architecture.

The most important improvement connected with Carlisle, is the opening of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. The company, formed in 1827 and 1828, obtained an act of incorporation in May, 1829. This railway, connecting the eastern and western seas, and passing through a country sixty miles in extent, abounding in coal, lead, and stone, commences at the canal basin, and proceeds almost in a straight line across Denton-holm and the river Caldew to the London-road, where the station is situated for receiving passengers, luggage, &c., to which two elegant omnibusses, one from the Coffee-house Inn, and the other from the Bush Inn, convey passengers from the city. Near the station a large commodious inn has recently been erected, where passengers may conveniently await either the trains or the coaches passing to the south.

Till very lately the river Eden, between Rickergate and Stanwix, divided itself into two branches, which, till the reign of Elizabeth, were crossed by two wooden structures,

alled Eden and Prestbeck bridges, which being in a state of great decay, were taken down in 1600, when two narrow stone bridges were raised in their stead, and continued to disgrace the county till 1812, when an act of parliament was passed to empower the county to erect the present handsome and extensive bridge which is carried from Stanwix across the Eden by five elliptical arches, (each 65 feet span) and thence extended to Rickergate across the sands by several smaller arches, which are used as storerooms, &c the stream of the Prestbeck being now confined to the Eden by embankments. The whole length of this elegant free-stone bridge is 400 yards, and its breadth within the parapets 12 yards, having a hewn pavement on each side of the carriage-way, for foot passengers. Its erection was commenced the same year the act was passed, from designs by Robert Smirkie, Esq. jun. R. A.; and government contributed £10 000 towards the expense, on account of its being in the direction of the intended new northern road to Port Patrick and Glasgow.—In 1820, two new bridges were erected over the Caldew and its parallel branch, to form a better opening to the western suburbs and the canal basin; and a new bridge is erected across the Petterill at Harraby, one mile S. E. of the city.

The want of water for domestic purposes is felt here, although as fine streams as are in

England flow on every side of the city, and it is to be hoped that some spirited individuals will soon remedy this great household deficiency, by originating a Joint Stock Water Company, which, no doubt, would meet with merited encouragement, and become a highly-remunerating investment.

Carlisle is often the theatre of much romantic and exciting speculation: the votaries of Hymen, with hearts brimful of joy, are here supplied, as their last stage, with fleet horses and knowing post-boys, on their winged flight to the "far-famed and enchanting Gretna-green," which is between eight and nine miles distant, on the north road. Instances are numerous, that the fair fugitive and her "gay Lothoria" are passing out of the north end of the town, when the father, or miserly guardian is entering the south. Many and earnest enquiries prevail, until either the "*tout ensemble*" are seen returning leisurely in the family carriage, or the gentle captive, in tears, sitting in one corner, and her sickly pursuer in the other, whilst the bereaved lover, baulked at the very threshold of bliss is fretting and fuming over the hard-hearted freaks of Fortune at some neighbouring inn.

W. & T. Fordyce, Printers, Dean Street, Newcastle.